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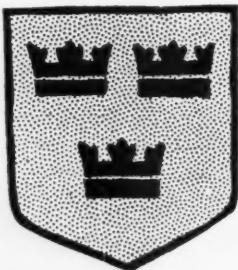
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FINANCIAL NOTES

SWEDEN'S BALANCED BUDGET PLAN

With the balanced budget plan of the Swedish Government submitted to the Riksdag the soundness of the country's finances was again reflected in a most telling manner, and especially since the Government proposed a reduction in taxes that was meant to benefit all classes. The income tax, for instance, is slated to be cut by an average of six per cent, and the duty on coffee and sugar 40 and 28 per cent respectively. The Swedish press has taken most kindly to the proposals.

For the payment of debts the budget sets aside 23,300,000 kronor, as compared with 7,100,000 kronor last year. For the improvement of roads, automobile taxes of 19,000,000 kronor are asked instead of 15,000,000 kronor as in 1925.

No shortage in the past year's balance sheet is expected to arise, and at the end of June the cash reserve reached 76,900,000 kronor, of which the Government expected to spend part for the completion of the new inland railroad to the Northland.

FINLAND ADOPTS THE GOLD STANDARD

With January of this year Finland entered upon the gold standard which was effected through stabilizing the Finnish mark at its present level of 39.7 to the dollar. With a pre-war rate of 5.18 marks to the dollar the present rate represents a depreciation of approximately 13 per cent of par. Convertibility of the new notes will be at the discretion of the Bank of Finland, redemption to be made either in gold coin, bullion, or sight drafts, payable in foreign gold currencies at prevailing exchange rates, these rates not to exceed actual gold parity by more than 8 per cent. This provision is made for the purpose of preventing any excessive withdrawals from the gold reserve by countries not on a gold basis.

U. S. FINANCING IN FOREIGN FIELDS

According to the National City Bank of New York, the shrinkage in foreign government financing, which was so noticeable during 1925, and the increase in foreign industrial loans, promise to continue during the present year. New foreign issues are coming out in greater variety than ever before. One particular instance, not because of its size, but as indicating a tendency, was a new offering of \$5,000,000 Saxon State Mortgage Institution Mortgage Collateral Guaranteed 7s, which were marketed at 93½ and interest to yield about 7.65 per cent. This institution was organized under the auspices of the Saxon State to provide credit for her smaller industrial units which lacked working capital but are unable to obtain loans in foreign markets upon their own unsupported credit.

NORWEGIAN BANKING NEWS

Tasks of great importance are at present occupying Norwegian banking and other financial concerns. For instance, the committee having in charge the examination of the affairs of the Norske Handelsbank reports through Assessor Paulsen that the enormous amount of work involved during the year the examination had been under way precludes any complete statement as yet, but

that after Norges Bank has looked through the report it will be made public.

Another matter of decisive interest is the Storting finance committee's investigation of the Norwegian Municipal Bank. The consensus of opinion of the committee, it is reported, is for the continuation of the bank, while certain representatives of the bank are in doubt that this will be done. The majority of the committee, it is said has acceded to the request of the minister of finance that there is to be no government guaranty for the bank's securities. Should the bank continue it is proposed to make the capital 25,000,000 kroner, with loans not to exceed eight times the capitalization.

The report of the Bergen Savings Bank states that there is a surplus of more than 600,000 kroner for 1925; 200,000 kroner more than for the previous year. Deposits increased 5,000,000 kroner, making a total of more than 115,000,000 kroner.

BIG INCREASE IN DANISH INCOME TAX YIELDS

Complete figures are now available as to Danish incomes for 1924, taxes for which are to be paid now. The total incomes amounted to 3,435,000,000 kroner, showing an increase of 292,000,000 kroner, or 9.3 per cent over the previous year. The number of income tax payers rose from 969,000 to 1,038,000. Compared with 1914, there has been a steady increase in the number of income tax payers up to 1920. That year proved the culmination as regards incomes, but later there has also been an increase, although less noticeable. The Danish government anticipates a total payment of taxes on incomes payable during the fiscal year 1925-26 at 135,000,000 kroner.

SWEDEN HONORS CHARLES E. MITCHELL

In recognition of the services of Charles E. Mitchell, President of the National City Bank of New York, in promoting closer relations between financial interests in the United States and Sweden Mr. Mitchell was presented with the insignia of the Royal Order of the North Star by Captain Axel F. Wallenberg, recently retired Swedish Minister to the United States, and Olof H. Lamm, the Consul General in New York, representing King Gustav V. No American banker has been more energetic than Mr. Mitchell in speaking Sweden's cause.

LESS GOLD FOR MONETARY STOCKS SEEMS LIKELY

According to the National Bank of Commerce in New York, by no means all the gold produced becomes available for monetary uses. Of the world production of \$19,000,000,000 since the discovery of America, monetary stocks were estimated to contain about \$9,700,000,000 at the end of 1924. The difference is accounted for by losses, industrial consumption, and the absorption of the treasure in countries of the East, notably India. Before the war \$250,000,000 to \$300,000,000 a year was apparently being poured into monetary employment. For the future the prospect seems somewhat different. Additions of gold to monetary stocks are likely to be considerably smaller than those to which the world had become habituated before the war.

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HANS P. LÖDRUP is a Norwegian newspaper man, a versatile writer. He holds a position with *Aftenposten* in Oslo.

CHARLES NIELSEN is a Danish clergyman, and is the secretary of the Copenhagen Church Fund, the work of which he describes in this number.

JOHAN LILJENCRANTZ was formerly an officer in the Swedish army, and since his arrival in New York has written for various periodicals.

MÄRTA AF SILLÉN, one of the younger Swedish authors, will be remembered for her story, *The Two Sibyls*, which Mr. Stork translated for our last September number.

ISAAC ANDERSON is an American newspaper man, at present with the *New York Times*. He is a native of the Middle West, the son of Norwegian settlers there, and a graduate of Luther College in Decorah.

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Most of our Associates are, we find, Associates for life. They do not give up their membership in the Foundation. Each January when their annual dues are payable they renew their part in the Foundation, and the REVIEW goes to them uninterruptedly.

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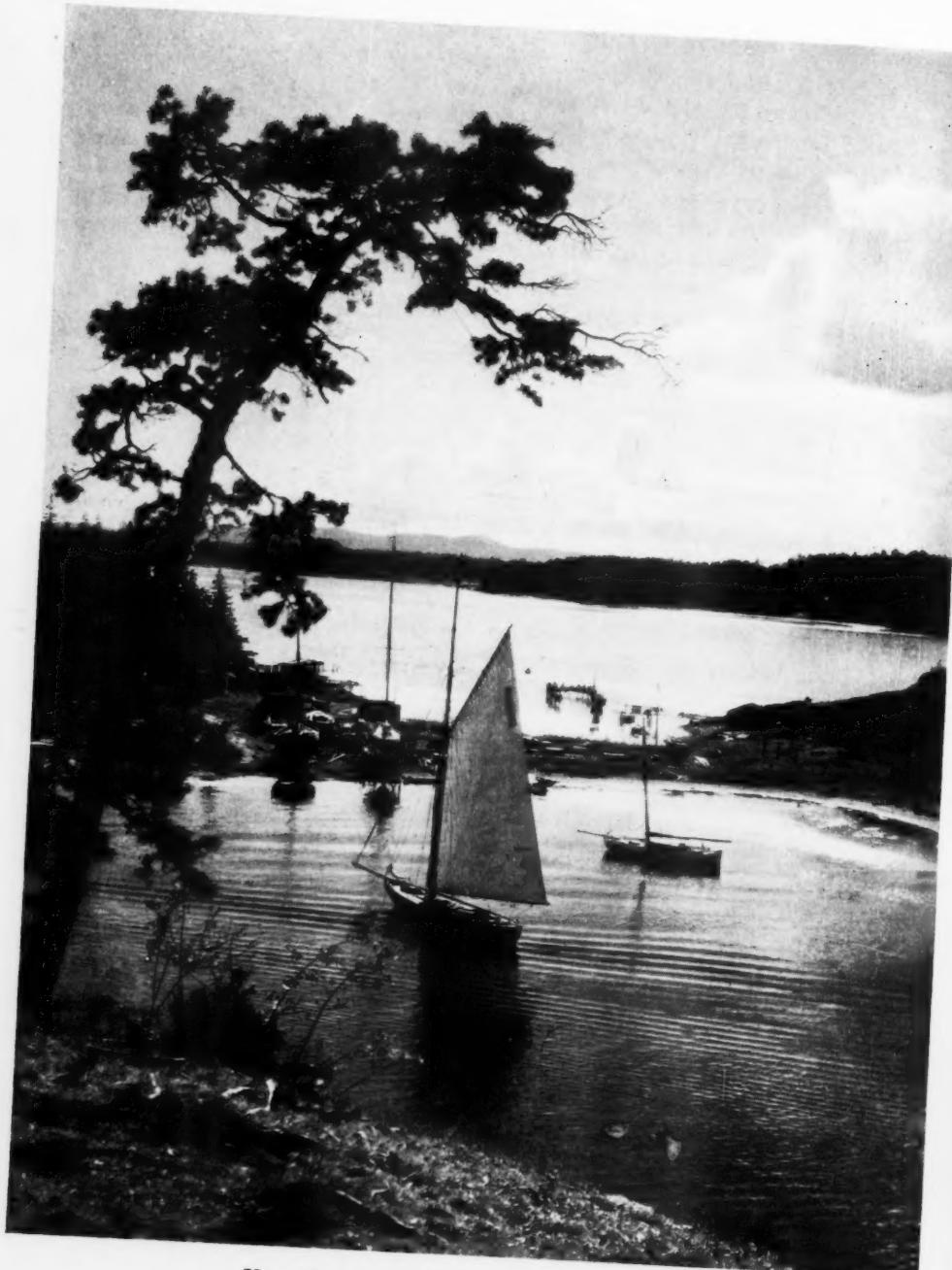
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VIEW OVER THE FJORD AT LYSAKER, NORWAY

Photograph by Wilse

THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

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Johan Bojer

By HANS P. LÖDRUP

THE NORWEGIAN people are gifted artistically but not gifted politically. Therefore we have a disproportionately large number of great writers and distinguished artists, while we have an equally disproportionate dearth of statesmen. It is our peasantry that has been the fountainhead of artistic genius among us, and from this part of our population Bojer sprang. In being self-taught, or as Americans say self-made, he resembles many other Norwegian poets and artists, though he is probably the one who has had the most unpropitious start and the greatest difficulties to overcome. With it all, he has attained success in life.

Johan Bojer was a poor fatherless child, put out to board with a woman in Tröndelagen. No kind clergyman noticed the bright little boy and put him to school. No kind patron reached him a helping hand when he began to write. He has himself told that he was fifteen years old before he knew there was such a thing as literature in books.

Even as a child he had to work and look out for himself. The poor little boy who lived over a stable in *The Great Hunger* is Bojer himself, though, as it happened, he lived in the barracks of the non-commissioned officers' school. He entered this school because he knew no other place where a boy without money or influential friends could receive free instruction, board and lodging, clothes and even a few pennies for pocket money. After finishing the course, he turned his hand to one thing after another, sold sewing-machines, clerked in a store, and rowed in the fisheries. But no matter what he did, two passions were always with him: an insatiable desire for knowledge which made him steal time from his employer in the day and from sleep at night, and a strong urge for social advancement.



Photograph by Rude

JOHAN BOJER

When the little boy looked from the crofter's hut over to the big farm, he resolved that such a farm should be his some day; when he saw the passenger boat steaming past with the gold-banded captain on the bridge, he made up his mind that he would become such a captain, and when he was a non-commissioned officer he wanted to be a general. This tendency may be traced in his works, where it is sometimes so marked as to be not quite pleasant.

In spite of poverty, Bojer's childhood can not be said to have been unhappy. His foster-mother, Randi, was a good, kind-hearted woman who told him stories and had a genuine affection for him. In return he loved her, as he has shown by naming one of his daughters after her. He also loved the outdoors and every year makes a pil-

grimage to his native parish. He once said that whenever he thought of home, it was not a house but the woods and moors where he tended cattle as a boy that he remembered. In these rather wistful words Bojer reveals something of his soul and gives us an inkling of how his early bent determined his later development.

High spirits and love of life were his from the cradle, but all through his youth he had to sacrifice pleasure to the necessity for drudging in every spare hour to acquire the education that more fortunate youths receive in the regular course of their schooling. Many men might have become bitter and old before their time, but the effect on Bojer has only been to make him more youthful and buoyant. He has simply made up for lost time. His books contain not a few instances of men who in maturer years have grasped the opportunity to enjoy the amusements from which hard work shut them out in their youth.

The fact that Bojer was, in a literary way, self-taught made him less sure in his style, when he began to write, than many men of lesser gifts. But with the appearance of his novel *A Procession of the People*—which the critic Carl Nærup called the best Norwegian novel published in the nineties—he stands forth as an author who, though he may be a little uneven (and who is not?) is nevertheless a master of his craft. This does not preclude a steady rise in his work to the high level attained in *The Power of a Lie*, *The Last of the Vikings*, and *Dyrendal*.

Bojer's most important books show him not only as a clever builder of plots and teller of tales but also as possessing an intellect of marked individuality. A just estimate of his works will place him in the front ranks of Norwegian literature, between Hamsun and Kinck. Hamsun is more of an artist, and Kinck is a deeper, more original thinker, but Bojer is clearer in his conception than Kinck and more intellectual than Hamsun. These qualities give the key to his popularity in the Latin and Anglo-Saxon countries. While Hamsun is loved and admired in the Slavic and Germanic world, Bojer is *le grand maître* in France. He has been awarded a prize by the Academy in Paris; his books are displayed in the shop windows there, and his stories run serially in the most exclusive literary magazines.

This is, of course, not merely accidental. It depends on kindred mentality in author and public.

Hamsun's works are the product of feeling. He is the lover and nature mystic, who intuitively knows the emotions and passions of men—their love-life and their reactions to nature—and who clothes these feelings in a style of exquisite beauty. He is the born artist, in whom the impressions of the outside world are immediately transmuted into forms of poetic art, apparently without reflection and



BOJER AND HIS FOSTER-MOTHER

not from that of his emotions. All generalizations of this nature are of course, halting, but with all due reservations, it may be said that in general Hamsun writes about emotions and Bojer about thoughts and ideas.

Bojer likes to take a single psychological phenomenon—the power of truth, or of a lie, or of love—and isolate it. This phenomenon he cultivates to the exclusion of everything else, invests it with a personality, and in fact almost makes it the hero of his book. His fondness for abstract ideas inclines him to the *typically* human, while Hamsun inclines to the *individually* human. Hamsun writes of men, Bojer of man. Hamsun is a romanticist, Bojer a classicist, and his classicism is in line with his orientation toward the Western nations.

In some of Bojer's books, which on the surface are ordinary realistic novels of Norwegian life, it is really not a person but an idea that is the central figure. He is so intensely absorbed in following this idea that his characters interest him only in so far as they throw light on the idea. Naturally this weakens the effect of his books as realistic pictures of life, but we must remember that his human characters are only the drapery over the real actors in this "drama of vices and virtues." It is therefore not a sign of failing power when the reader is apt to forget the persons and remember the problem; quite the

without effort. Language with him is not merely the vehicle of his thought; it is an instrument upon which he plays and from which he evokes tones of purely musical value—all gifts that wake a response in the dreamy, poetic, musically attuned nature of the Slav and German, while they often leave the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon cold. The latter demand, at least from the novel, something more tangible than moods and impressions; they crave facts and definite meanings that can be apprehended by the intellect and appraised in discussion.

This they find in Bojer. He is markedly intellectual. Though it was his creative imagination that drove him to write, the subjects of his books are drawn from the world of thoughts and ideas,

contrary, for the problem *is* the person. He who would judge Bojer according to the usual standards of realistic fiction can find plenty of pegs to hang his objections upon, but this would be as unfair as to judge a man by his clothes.

Bojer began as a realist, for this is the line of least resistance. But while he wrote of people and events in his home parish, just as other peasant born writers have done, it soon became apparent that he was approaching them from an altogether different angle. He would take up a single thread in the tangled skein of human emotions and follow it in all its windings, and this task absorbed him more and more. As the philosopher after a while has to move in the domain of pure thought and tread the paths of unreality, so Bojer abstracts the single psychological phenomenon from its relation with other thoughts and ideas in the mind of the individual. He picks it up as the vivisectionist picks up with his instrument a single nerve fibre from a bundle of nerves and disentangles it from everything else. While he plays this exciting intellectual game, juggling with pure psychology, the persons naturally sink into the background. *A Procession of the People* is not so much a book about Chairman Hegge as about the ravages of politics in the mind of the politician. *The Power of a Lie* is not about Nordby but about the lie.

This power of taking general psychological observations and making them so vital that they go on living in our minds as problems is, in my opinion, Bojer's great achievement. This form of writing is far more difficult than the ordinary psychological novel. It demands

brilliant presentation, great power of concentration, and tremendous energy of imagination. The idea must be traced in all its meanderings through human consciousness and must at the same time be made so vital that it grips the imagination. The author must not only have this driving force in the pursuit of his subject, but must have mastered the technique of composition and the art of telling a story entertainingly. All this is eminently true of Bojer.



BOJER WITH HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AND (IN THE CENTRE)
HIS NIECE

The Power of a Lie (called *The Power of Faith* in the original) is without doubt the most monumental work in this part of Bojer's production. It is the story of a lie which by the power of faith becomes a truth, but outwardly it is the story of the village magnate Nordby who by a lie gets Trader Wangen imprisoned for cheating.

The lie begins its career by flying out, tiny and innocent, in the form of a slight omission—Nordby has not the courage to contradict his wife when she says, "Thank goodness you haven't signed any papers for him, so you don't lose anything."—This little omission is not with intent to deceive, but simply because he hates to risk the scene which surely would follow if he told his wife that he actually had given security for Wangen and had lost. The omission flies out into the world, lives its own life, and has consequences. It leads to other omissions, then to direct little lies, and finally to perjury in court. But on its way Nordby's lie meets the mistakes of others and encounters at last a lie on the part of Wangen. And it meets Nordby's conviction that at bottom he is not a bad fellow. In his mind his own sin becomes paler and paler with every new sin committed by Wangen. At last when his fellow citizens arrange a celebration for him, he ends by having a very good opinion of himself. The lie which sailed out into the world as light as a single feather has become a truth equal to five hens. Nordby thinks it is dreadful what lies Wangen tells, he feels quite scandalized and thanks God that he is not like Wangen. The book ends with these lines:

"When Nordby at last got into bed, he folded his hands and read a couple of verses from a hymn. He felt that God was very near him. The respect and sympathy of the parish seemed to shine into his conscience, and he had to thank God for everything.

"But one thing I can't understand,' he thought after a little while, 'and that is how people like Wangen can stand there with a straight face and lie in court. God help people who haven't got more conscience than that.'"

Such is the power of faith, says Bojer. So a lie can live and wax fat until at last it becomes a truth.

This ending is too paradoxical. Bojer the wag has taken the reins from the poet and psychologist. He has not been able to resist the image of the old sinner lying there and thanking God because he is not like the publican Wangen. In spite of its paradoxical ending, however, the book is a remarkable and distinguished piece of work, one that may resist the wear and tear of centuries. There is so much virtuosity in the handling, so much keenness in the analysis, and so much originality in the conception that it has well deserved the world fame it has attained.

The Prisoner Who Sang is another of Bojer's free psychological creations in novel form. It is not so firm in composition as *The Pow-*

er of a Lie and not so monumental, but it is more elegant, more ingratiating, and perhaps even more original. It deals with the human desire to play several rôles and not always to be the same person, in other words, with that division of personality which most people have felt in themselves. Bojer once expressed it in speaking to a group of ultra-exclusive European men of letters, when he suddenly exploded, "I became a writer because I could not become a cavalry general."

Andreas Berget, the prisoner who sang, has a personality so subdivided that there is nothing left of his real self. He is a near relative of Peer Gynt, and like him a member of the onion family, all peel and no kernel. He suffers from an insatiable longing to be in the lime-light, and he is absolutely unable to distinguish between good and evil—is, in fact, thoroughly amoral. Being a poor boy, the only way he can attract attention to himself is by mischievous pranks. Once at a funeral he becomes possessed with a desire to startle people and "give them new faces" as Bojer put it, and so he raps out a strong oath in a loud voice. Being totally devoid of all inhibitions, he gives way to every impulse, and inasmuch as his impulses usually take the form of wanting to make fools of people by playing a part, pretending to be what he is not, they often lead to criminal swindling. He cheats in love and in business, but is always in a radiant good humor, thoroughly enjoying the game. At last he becomes a pawnbroker and a communist agitator, a usurer and a reformer at the same time. In true Bojer style he carries the situation—the division of personality—to a point where his communist self leads a mob in attacking the business of the pawnbroker and scatters all his treasures in the street. Then the police takes a hand, and inasmuch as the pawnbroker can not be found, he is accused of having murdered him. In court he makes a clean breast of the whole story and confesses that he is the pawnbroker too. The court, of course, believes he is insane, and then he makes his great speech:

"As a pawnbroker I often had a bad conscience, that is to say, a longing to be a better man and to see a better state of society realized. A large part of my nature gained self-expression when I fleeced the poor borrowers, and the remaining part of me obtained a place in the sun when I fought for their cause and advocated their rights in the world. Only, the demagogue might feel his gorge rising at all those oily words addressed to the crowd, and my only comfort was the thought that I myself was well anchored in reality. I was able to return to reality, however mean, before the day ended. It strengthens and refreshes a man to change his nature. As a rule the pawnbroker had only contempt for the communistic orator, and the communist hated and cursed the pawnbroker. The tension between the two kept my spirit wide-awake all times. One day the communist arranged a riot against the pawnbroker, plundered his shop and strangled him. In that way one side of our nature often takes revenge over the other. And might I be allowed to ask: Are there so very many in this room who are so thorough when they desire to better themselves?

"Life and theory? You demand connection between the two? If you are all honest, you will admit that nothing is more impossible. If the ideal were life, then there would be nothing for which to gaze at the sky, nothing to seek in the azure of the future. There would be no need of faith, of longing, of dreams. The moment an ideal becomes a part of life, it is changed into local administration.

"Finally I will ask every one in this room: am I not right? Most of the ladies and gentlemen present presumably call themselves Christians. Tell me in earnest: have you even for one moment out of the twenty-four hours of the day carried out the doctrines of Christianity in your lives?

"Hypocrisy? Not at all. Only when a doctrine is so lofty that it is out of reach, then only is it true and eternal. . . As far as I am concerned I sorrowfully declare that on the day when we strangle what is evil in us we also destroy what is good, and that is why I am here now, not exactly sure of my own identity."

This is, of course, dialectics. It is paradoxical, but it is brilliant. It is an agile play with psychological facts, the like of which we have never before seen in our literature. The book is whimsical to the point of flippancy, but underneath the jest there is a deep meaning hidden and it teaches us much about ourselves that we did not know before.

A third instance of Bojer's unrealistic psychological imaginative work is the fairy tale, *The Eyes of Love*, which he has since turned into a rather uninteresting play. The idea is that love makes everything beautiful within us and around us, and like the other tales in the collection *White Birds*, it is a rapturous hymn to love. A youthful and enthusiastic poet is writing these mad fairy tales in praise of a woman. They are not all equally good; some are a little clumsy, while others are not free from foppishness; they have neither the deep wisdom of the folk tale nor Hans Christian Andersen's knowledge of human nature, but they contain beautiful thoughts; they are so young and vibrant, they warm hearts that have not yet grown so cold as to forget the bliss of loving.

Here is an example:

"Such a young and lovely woman sails in among the dull week-days with music on board. Drunken beggars are silenced when she approaches. Faces marred by weeping light up when she enters. The sick forget their pain when she touches them.

"The poor man becomes rich when she stands in his cottage. No food is so common that it does not turn into festive fare when she sits down to the table, and her dress may be red or white or blue, but it carries always a fragrance of white linen.

"Such a young woman has an invisible fairy who does her hair, chooses her colors for her, and dresses her. If there is a slight disarrangement in her costume, that is only an added charm. If she puts on her hat hastily, it assumes lines more graceful than any modiste could have given it. If she loses a button from her long glove, it allows her partner a rapturous glimpse of her wrist. If her shoe-string comes untied, it will afford some young man a blissful memory for life that he has been allowed to kneel down and tie it."

Or the following:

"In the field as the priestess of earth, at the hearth-stone, on the virginal couch, in the temple, clad in silk or only in a fig leaf, pale or golden, always she has been

the light of the world... What hurts me is to think that so many millions of young women have lived and I have not seen them, not spoken one little word to them, not handed them the tiniest flower, not basked in the light of their smile."

This is Bojer the lyrist—infatuated and mad.

Yet there is still another Bojer, a solid realistic novelist who has produced a number of excellent—and some not so good—novels and stories. His best novel of this type is *Dyrendal* (published in English under the title *God and Woman*, the story of Martha, the peasant girl in the north of Norway, who gains gold and land, but is poor and barren in her soul because she is not a mother. Rarely has a man understood so well the tragedy of the childless woman. Martha is a vital figure with roots deep in the soil and a temperament colored by the landscape around her. Sometimes it is as though a sudden depth opened in her soul and allowed us to glimpse for an instant the strange mixture of tenderness and hardness, of dourness and yearning, of narrowness and boundlessness which makes up her nature. She seems to reflect the scenery, at once bleak and bountiful, with ocean depths and mountain peaks, with confining valleys and illimitable open sea.

The *Last of the Vikings* is a broadly composed and brilliantly painted picture of folk life. In addition to its literary charm, it has historical value in that it preserves a certain type of life that has lasted for centuries but is now passing with the advent of the motor boat and the reorganization of the fisheries along lines of big industry. Bojer's faculty for telling a story so that it grips the attention has never been more apparent. He knew the life through and through, the people, the places, and the customs. The book will be a classic in Norwegian literature, a modern pendant to the Nordland descriptions of Peder Dass. He plays on all strings, there are youthful idylls from the parishes, storm nights from the sea, fights about fishing-grounds, sickness, suffering, and death. Very beautiful in its mixture of homely simplicity and spiritual elevation is the chapter about Elezeus who is dying at the fishing-station and receives communion from the hands of another fisherman. It is tempting to quote this moving passage in full, but that would take too much space.

The author's last book, *Our Own People* (called *The Emigrants* in the English edition) is in a broad sense a continuation of *The Last of the Vikings*. It describes the life of the early Norwegian pioneers in America, tells how they break the virgin soil of the prairie, and how their little new community comes into being and develops. In the constant emotional swinging between their longing for home and their love of the land they have cultivated, Bojer sees the tragedy of the first generation. Wherever they are, they will long for the country where they are *not*.

This book, too, is planned on a large scale and executed with



THE HOSPITABLE HOME OF JOHAN BOJER AND HIS FAMILY AT HVALSTAD, AN HOUR'S JOURNEY FROM OSLO. THE PORCH OVERLOOKS A WIDE SWEEP OF VALLEY. BEHIND THE HOUSE THERE IS A RISING GROUND, WHERE FRU BOJER, WHO IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC GARDENER, HAS HER FLOWER BORDERS AND ROCK BEDS



DINING-ROOM IN THE BOJER HOME



FRU BOJER'S PAVILION

Bojer's mastery of technique. Everything falls into its place naturally, and from all that I have heard, the picture of the life of our emigrant countrymen seems well rendered and true. Nevertheless it has not quite the sense of actuality that we feel in *The Last of the Vikings*; it lacks the thousand and one tiny realistic touches that give such life to the Nordland book, and therefore it leaves us with a sense of something un-lived and un-felt in spite of all technical virtuosity.

It will be apparent from this sketch that Bojer is an author with a wide sweep. His intellect is keen, his temperament vivacious; his interests are many-sided and his faculties versatile. What he lacks in his personality as a writer is a certain artistic quality. In his language there is a want of sensitiveness to the rounded and harmonious; it has rather a harshness that grates. It is possible that this is because he is a native of Tröndelagen, and if so it is temperamental. The hardness in form may be only an expression of his own primeval strength and indomitable energy. In most of his books he has broken new paths and created his own form with masterly skill. In others he has followed the broad highway of the ordinary novel and handled his subject with equal mastery. Occasionally, however, he falls into mediocrity, as in some of his less successful novels and in his dramas. But all his works have in common a bright and positive element, a belief in the powers of goodness, and a faith in the old homespun virtues, which is not usually found in his generation, but is in league with his own bright, energetic, positive nature. The vivacity of his books is not common in modern Norwegian literature, and though sometimes the sprightliness may be a little forced, it is often sparkling and characteristic.

Bojer's personality as an author is therefore complicated and it is not easy for a contemporary to say the final word regarding it—and besides Bojer is yet in the midst of his life-work. Whatever his shortcomings or his merits, it is at least certain that he is one of the most distinguished and individual of Norwegian authors and has richly deserved the world-wide fame he has won. To his friends it is moreover a pleasure to know that in his private life he is a happy man in a happy home, a man who even in the outer circumstances of his life has won in maturity the beauty and spaciousness that youth denied him.

Scandinavian Homes of Uncle Sam

III. The Legation in Oslo

UNCLE SAM has joined the "own your home" movement. A law authorizing the purchase of homes for our representatives abroad was passed in 1911, but it was not until twelve years later that our government actually began to put the law into practice in Europe. Then an unusually favorable opportunity presented itself in Norway, when the stately mansion, regarded as the most palatial private home in Oslo, was offered for sale and purchased by our government in 1923. The present American Minister to Norway, Mr. Laurits S. Swenson, thus became the first American minister in Europe to preside in a home bought as a permanent residence for Uncle Sam.



ON THE VERANDAH

Unlike the houses occupied by the legations in Stockholm and Copenhagen, that in Oslo lacks the mellow look of age and tradition, but it belongs architecturally to the excellent period inaugurated in the Scandinavian countries with the beginning of the twentieth century. It has the qualities which modern taste demands, monumental simplicity, integrity of structure, and adaptation to its site. Built of plastered brick with trimmings of granite, its prevailing gray tone fits well into the rugged background. The grounds rise gradually from Bygdö Allé, giving the house sufficient elevation to command a view of the fjord and of the wooded highland country to the north as well as the

adjacent park. The garden is quite extensive and combines the formal with the informal in a happy manner. Not far from the main building is the annex, which is used as the chancery.

The house was built in 1911 by Consul-General Hans Olson, who used it as his own residence and equipped it with all modern conveniences. The halls and reception rooms are spacious and lend themselves well to the social life of the legation. On formal occasions the minister is assisted by his daughter Mrs. Tim Nörgaard who acts as hostess of the legation.



THE LEGATION FROM THE GARDEN



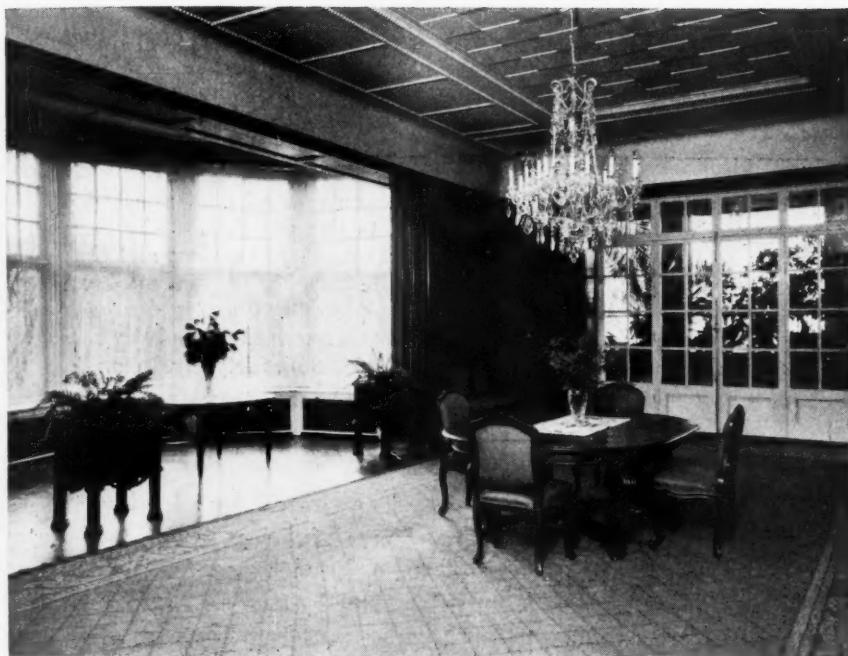
A CORNER OF THE FRENCH GARDEN



THE ANNEX CONTAINING THE CHANCERY



THE MINISTER IN HIS STUDY



THE DINING-ROOM



THE LARGE RECEPTION ROOM

A Campaign in Church Building

By CHARLES NIELSEN

The expansion of modern Copenhagen created conditions where as many as 76,000 persons belonged to one parish, and the clergy were reduced to officials for wholesale marrying, burying, and christening. To cope with this problem, the Copenhagen Church Movement was formed. It is a unique example of how a vigorous volunteer movement can thrive within a State Church, provided the latter is made flexible enough to absorb it. Since 1889, forty-eight churches have been built, largely by volunteer effort.

ONCE upon a time—and that less than a hundred years ago—our old town lay behind its moats and ramparts, and its gates were locked every night. The keys were brought into the castle to King Frederik VI, and then the Father of his Country slept soundly, for were not the gates locked and the keys on the table by his bedside?

As the city grew, this idyllic state of things came to an end. The ramparts were razed, the moats filled up, and the town spread to the east and the west and the north and the south. Endless rows of tenement houses rose, gray and dismal, where our fathers had their country houses not so long ago. Hosts of workmen, most of whom had moved in from the country, lived in these barracks, close to the factories whose whistle called them to their monotonous tasks every morning.

A long time passed before the church authorities realized that something must be done for the spiritual welfare of this army of workers and their families. Their parish churches were in the heart of the old town, Trinity with the ancient "Rundetaarn" being the parish church for the Nørrebro and Österbro suburbs, and Vor Frue for the Vesterbro suburb. Finally St. John's Church was built in the densely populated quarter of Nørrebro. When King Frederik VI drove over for the dedication, it was a long time since any similar event had taken place in Copenhagen.

The first rector of the new church, Reverend Rudolf Frimodt, was a forceful and vivid personality, one who was not afraid to preach the message of his master in season and out of season. People thronged to hear him, and they sang so that St. John's became known as "the singing church." But large as the crowds were that filled his church, he realized that they were only a small fraction of his parish, which covered the entire suburbs of Nørrebro and Österbro besides the



A GROUP OF COPENHAGEN CHURCHES

The Two Steeped Churches to the Left Are the First-Fruits of the Building Campaign, the Upper One Being St. John's and the Lower St. James'

Above Is One of the Most Recent, Hans Tavsen's Church, Dedicated in 1905 and in Constant Use, Though Not Completed. The Step-gable Is an Interesting Revival of a Medieval Style

Below Is One of the Older Churches, Bethlehem's at Nørrebro, Dedicated in 1889

quarters formerly occupied by the old ramparts. Therefore he started a subscription for funds and succeeded in building two churches, St. Stephen's in the remotest part of Nørrebro, and St. James' in Østerbro. These churches were a source of intense joy to him. The last time he walked out before his death he asked the verger to let him into St. James'. He sat down in one of the pews and said, "Many a time have I stood here watching how stone was laid upon stone, and it has been the great joy of my life. In fact I feel as if God had made me a present of these two churches." A few days later he died, but others took up his work.

Three more churches were built, making five in all, but still the need was dire. In the years between 1857 and 1889 the population of Copenhagen had increased by 212,000 people. The parishes grew so large that the pastors could not possibly cope with their work. St. Mathew's numbered 55,000 persons; St. John's 76,000. Naturally there could be no personal contact between a clergyman and his parishioners. He had no time for the cure of souls; all he could do was to attend to the duties of officiating at baptisms, funerals, and weddings; and as the poorer classes always preferred to have such ceremonies take place on Sundays—in order not to lose a working day—these functions became wholesale performances. Eight, ten, or twelve couples would be ranged about the altar; the clergyman would make one address suffice for them all, and would then go through the marriage ritual with the separate couples. I have heard one clergyman tell how, before preaching on a Sunday morning, he had to go to the mortuary chapel, speak and perform the burial rites over fourteen small children, each with its own group of mourners. Afterwards the parents themselves took the bodies to the cemetery and buried them. It was impossible for the minister to go to the graves.

Such conditions certainly did not induce respect for the church among the people, and it did not help matters that all such services had to be paid for at fixed rates, this part of the business being settled at the parish office—sometimes in a very unpleasant manner. The clergyman rarely saw the persons in question before the ceremony and had no means of adapting his speech to the requirements of the individual.

Indifference to religion and even positive contempt of the Church became common.

At the same time two movements had arisen, both in sharp opposition to the Church. One was the Marxistic socialism, with its denial of the spirit, which made itself felt among the working classes. The other was the latitudinarian philosophy of Brandes and his followers, which influenced many of the intelligentsia. Both movements began in the seventies and ran their course in the eighties and the early part of the nineties. Their views were promulgated through an able press, and the effect was quite marked in the middle classes.

A great change has come over Denmark since that time. The Socialists have now come into power as the leading political party, but their attitude toward the Church is no longer one of opposition. In fact many of their leaders as well as the rank and file are interested church members. The influence of Brandes has also decreased year by year, and the intellectual life of the country has to a great extent drawn inspiration from the eternal sources.

The distinct revival of religious interest may in large measure be credited to the Copenhagen Church Movement. The organization,

which was formed in the eighties, is the reply to the attacks made upon the Church by its antagonists.

Its inception was in 1886 at a conference held in Bethesda, a mission house in Copenhagen, where men and women from all parts of the country attended. The subject under discussion was how to reach the great masses of unbelievers in the capital city. A young country minister, Johannes Möller, said the decisive word. The erection of a few large expensive churches had been proposed, but Mr. Möller said: "No, that is not the way to take hold. We must begin at the other end. Build a number of small churches—sixty or seventy of them—and split up the parishes, so the individuals can find the places where they belong. Let a man begin in one parish; give him a little wooden church in a back yard and assign to him a few blocks of the city. Others will follow the example. This is a work for young men to take hold of."

His words struck a spark. Three young women started the work of collecting funds, and after a few years they were able to buy outright a small church which was abandoned by a Methodist congregation. The new owners offered it to the government Church Department, which refused it on the ground that it was very small and not conveniently located. After some time Bishop Fog of Sjælland consented to receive it as a subsidiary church in the extensive St. John's parish. The dedication, which took place on May 12, 1889, was the beginning of the Copenhagen Church Movement.

A small group of University men had for some time had their minds directed to the distress of the Church and had been casting about for some means to relieve it. The circle consisted of two clergymen, Dr. H. Ussing, and Rev. Friis Hansen, and three laymen, the noted statistician Professor Harald Westergaard, the physician Dr. P. D. Kock, and the Egyptologist H. O. Lange, afterwards head of the Royal Library. Their group was later augmented by a number of laymen and by many of the Copenhagen clergy, among them Dr. Thomas Skat Rördam, afterwards bishop of Sjælland.

These men sent in an appeal to the Church Department, and as a result a committee was appointed to draw up a plan for church building in Copenhagen. After sitting for two years, the committee drafted a bill for the erection of eight new churches, but the bill perished in committee in the Landsting.



"ALDERSRO" AT ÖSTERBRO, ONE OF THE TEMPORARY CHURCHES BUILT BY THE FUND

Although the Rigsdag refused to grant money for church building, the laymen did not even await its decision before beginning work on their own accord. They formed a committee called "The Committee for the Promotion of the Church Movement in Copenhagen." In addition to Professor Westergaard, Dr. Kock, and Mr. Lange, the committee included the following laymen: Johs V. Adolph, C. Banger, H. Levinson, and C. Borgen.

To begin with, the committee took over the Bethlehem church for which the young women had hitherto procured means, and in an incredibly short time they had raised three churches of corrugated iron and one of stone. These five churches were poor enough, and no wonder considering how quickly they were finished and considering that the committee had to find money both for building and running expenses, including salaries for the clergymen and staff.

When Dr. Thomas Skat Rördam was made bishop of Sjælland, he used his great influence for the promotion of the Church Movement in Copenhagen. He obtained the king's permission to have an annual collection for the Church Fund taken in all the churches of the

country on "Store Bededag"—the annual "Day of Prayer" in the Danish Church—between Easter and Whitsun. The first collection was taken in 1896 when 17,000 kroner came in. Since then it has been an annual event, and last year 86,000 kroner were obtained in this way.

At the instance of Bishop Rördam a body of men, from all parts of the country and representing various opinions within the Church, were appointed to administer the Fund. Usually this body meets only once a year, and the routine work is done by a business committee chosen from the leaders of the Committee for the Promotion of the Church Movement. The position of chairman has during the whole time been filled



THE ELIJAH CHURCH AT VESTERBRO, DESIGNED BY MARTIN NYROP, ARCHITECT OF THE TOWN HALL, BUILT 1908. AN INTERESTING ATTEMPT TO FIT A CHURCH BUILDING INTO A MODERN CITY STREET



THE SPLENDID ESALAS CHURCH, AT ØSTERBRO, BUILT 1903-1912, ARCHITECT THORVALD JÖRGENSEN

by Professor Westergaard.

By the desire of the Church Department, the Bishop of Sjælland is *ex officio* president of the Church Fund. This arrangement keeps the movement within the Established Church, although from the start it contained a strong Free Church element. As secretary of the Fund, Reverend Julius Friis Hansen was appointed. He was a zealous and able organizer and was especially successful in establishing a strong bond between the

Church Movement in the capital and the congregations throughout the country. Friis Hansen died in 1905 after nine years of labor, but the movement has, on the whole, followed the channels into which he directed it.

Church after church has risen in Copenhagen. Instead of the eight buildings for which the Rigsdag refused to grant money, forty-eight new churches have been built in the capital city. Twenty-nine of these are owned and supported by the Church Fund.

The general principles of the work have been as follows:

First. A continual splitting up of parishes till the provisional aim has been reached: a maximum of 10,000 persons in each parish, with one church and two clergymen who divide the parish between them so that each has about 5,000 people—that is 1400 or 1500 homes—under his personal care.

Second. Voluntary support. The Church Fund does not apply for subsidies either from the State or from the municipality. Even the sites of the churches have been purchased. The churches are built for voluntary gifts from the congregations and supported by the same means. Salaries are now, however, paid by the State to all permanent pastors and all church officials. Only a few curates are paid out of the Church Fund.

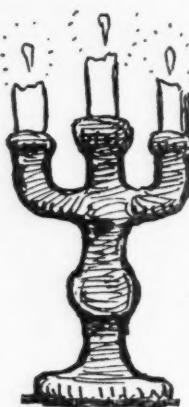
The Church Fund retains ownership of the churches. They are at the disposal of the Established Church as long as this exists, but if it should ever be abolished, the buildings would revert to the Church Fund. Furthermore, if the government should fill the offices of parish pastors with men who cannot co-operate with the Church Fund

or with the congregation they are charged with serving, the Church Fund shall have a right to appoint a third clergyman, who shall be entitled to use the church half the time. As yet this right has never been exercised. In accordance with the principle of voluntary support the congregation usually collects the money necessary for the upkeep of its own church and aids the pastor in the organized parish work among children and young people and among the old, the sick, and the needy.

Third. The formation of congregational communities. Attempts are being made to build up the church from within as a house of "living stones" by uniting believers in congregational communities. This attempt has been successful, and the organized parish work carried on by these groups has been the prototype of similar endeavors in other churches of Copenhagen.

The twenty-nine churches belonging to the Church Fund vary much in size and equipment. Some of them are only temporary and are to be replaced by permanent stone structures. A few have not been finished and are still only crypt churches or meeting-houses dedicated to church use awaiting their completion. Sixteen are, however, ready, and efforts are being made to complete the remaining thirteen and build seven others in the course of the next five years. For this purpose two million kroner have been subscribed in the country and upwards of one million in the city of Copenhagen. From the latter it is expected that another million will be contributed.

The Church Movement has been called "the Fairy Tale of Denmark's Church History." It shows how much may be achieved even in a State Church—and the Danish National Church is a State Church—provided it leaves room for voluntary work of the congregations and understands how to keep that work within its own broad frame.



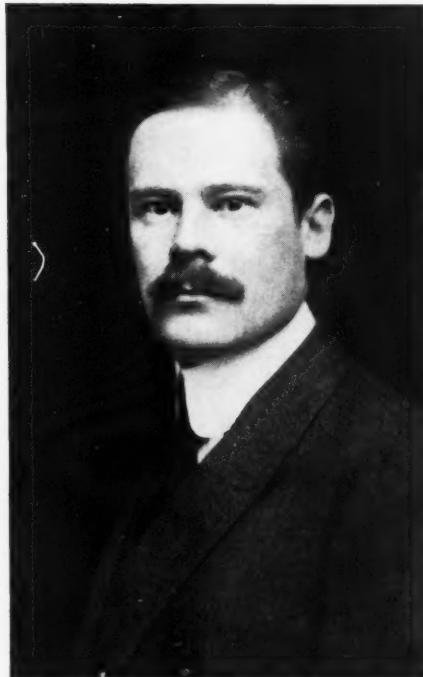
A Swedish-American Inventor

By JOHAN LILJENCRANTS

SWEDISH inventive genius and American business enterprise celebrated a joint triumph in the installation recently of the new trans-oceanic wireless service which has already in the short time of its existence done much to bring the two countries nearer to each other. The man who more than any one else deserves credit for this new tie between the land of his birth and the land of his adoption is the Swedish-American inventor, Ernst Fredrik Werner Alexanderson. The system in use bears his name and is the fruit of his labor and genius. No wonder, therefore, that when he returned to Sweden last summer to assist in the inauguration of the newly opened station at Grimeton he received a proud welcome from king and people.

The great inventor was born in Upsala in 1878, descending on his father's side from an old and honored family originally from Visby, and on his mother's from the noble house of von Heidenstam. He received his early schooling and college education in Lund, and after an additional year at the university of that city he decided, following his natural inclinations, to matriculate at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm where he gained his Engineer's diploma, finally completing his training by research work at the Royal Institute of Technology in Berlin.

Like so many young Swedish engineers he now turned his eyes to the great country in the West where unlimited resources and rapidly developing industries offered unusual advantages. In 1901 he arrived in New York where he became employed as an electrical draftsman, and a year later he accepted a position on the staff of the General Electric Company of Schenectady. Here his remarkable inventive genius gained prompt recognition, and he was soon appointed Consulting Engineer of the Company. He could now devote himself to experimental and research work which was destined to bear



E. F. W. ALEXANDERSON

fruit in a long series of inventions, some epoch-making, the volume of which is represented by over two hundred patents registered in his name.

The earlier inventions were in the field of railroad engineering and include the "Alexanderson single phase motor" and a number of devices which have largely contributed to the modernization of electrical railroad apparatus both in the United States and abroad. Alexanderson's greatest achievements, however, were to be gained in another field, and his name will ever be linked with the development of radio telegraphy and telephony into practical means of commercial communication. Here he has accomplished what the greatest authorities had pronounced impossible.

Radio engineers had long recognized the inefficiency and fatal limitations of the only available system of generating high frequency currents required for the production of radio signals, which seriously threatened a standstill in radio development. An alternator capable of 100,000 cycles frequency was urgently needed to produce the current directly. Although the task seemed impossible of accomplishment, the problem was brought to the attention of the General Electric Company, and Alexanderson was selected to work it out. He began his experiments on the new type of dynamo in 1904. In the face of discouragement he succeeded after a few months' time in producing an alternator generating a current of 60,000 cycles frequency, increased to 200,000 cycles in later types, and, finally, he completed a dynamo capable of an output of 200 kilowatt at a frequency of 27,000 cycles which satisfied all demands of trans-oceanic communication and was proclaimed the most perfect high frequency alternator in the world. The "impossible" was now achieved. The new machine was installed in a score of plants, among which is the transmitting station of the American Marconi Company at New Brunswick, N. J., and is at the present in use in power stations over the whole world.

His work with the construction of the alternator had drawn Alexanderson's attention to other needs in radio development, major of which were improved antenna and a practical system of producing signals with the use of powerful currents. He eliminated the inefficiency of the antenna in use by devising the "multiple tuned antenna" in which the radiating system is divided into many parallel sections with individual as well as coordinated functioning. He also solved the signal problem by constructing an apparatus with the use of which trans-oceanic telegraphy at a speed of over 200 words per minute became possible.

The vacuum tubes developed by Drs. Langmuir and Coolidge were utilized by Alexanderson in the construction of a practical radio telephone transmitter. In the Alexanderson "duplex system" ordinary desk telephones are connected by wire with radio stations equipped



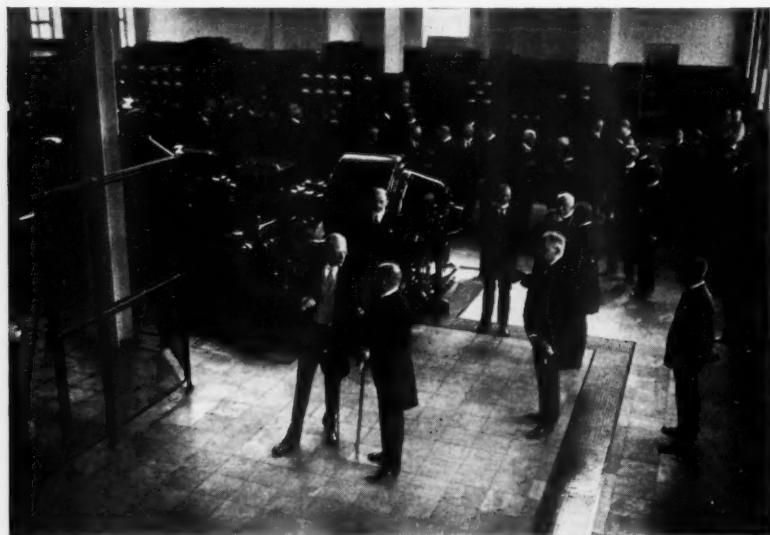
THE RADIO AT GRIMETON

with pliotron and auxiliary apparatus, and conversation may be carried on from both ends. The first experiments with radio telephony were undertaken in 1916. A few years later Secretary of the Navy Daniels addressed from Washington his message of welcome to President Wilson as the President approached America on board the George Washington, and on subsequent trips two way conversation was held between Washington and the ship. At that time telephone conversation had also been established between New Brunswick and Brest, France. Commercial radio telephony is now a possibility awaiting popular demand to be realized; so-called broadcasting is a form of it.

America's entry in the war necessitated radio devices which placed new demands on Alexanderson's inventive genius. German efforts to disturb communication between Allied stations were rendered nugatory by the use of his "barrage receiver" which became the foundation of the modern directive method of radio reception. Many other inventions during the war period must be omitted for lack of space; the "barrage receiver," however, is of particular interest not only as a vast improvement in radio reception, but also because it was pronounced an impossibility by experts.

In order to place the future of radio development securely in American hands, the General Electric Company undertook the formation of the Radio Corporation of America under the leadership of Alexanderson as Chief Engineer. This was in 1919. He has since retired from this position, preferring to resume his activities at the General Electric Company while remaining as Consulting Chief Engineer for the Radio Corporation. Almost since his arrival in the United States he has made Schenectady his home.

Alexanderson's work has not been exclusively confined to the experimental laboratory. A number of technical papers have been prepared by him which were read before learned societies and printed in technical journals. These papers in themselves form an important contribution to engineering science. In 1919 he was awarded the Medal of Honor of the Institute of Radio Engineers. He has also been honored with the Knighthood of the Polish Order of Polonia Restituta and the Swedish Order of the North Star, the insignia of



KING GUSTAF AT THE DEDICATION OF THE GRIMETON STATION

which were pinned on his breast by King Gustave V in person during the inauguration ceremonies at Grimeton.

In the speeches delivered at the inauguration of the Grimeton station it was told how the new system of trans-oceanic communication not only had substantially reduced the cost of rapid correspondence between Sweden and the United States, but so increased the speed and efficiency of such communication that transactions could now be concluded during the few daily business hours common to the two countries. As a consequence the radio system already carries ninety-five per cent of all such commercial correspondence.

The opening of the Grimeton station therefore not only marks a new era in the history of Sweden's communications, but it also illustrates the important rôle which new conquests of the powers of Nature may be made to play in the peaceful economical development of a nation as well as in enlarging and enhancing the relations between nations which redound to their mutual benefit, and which serve to cement international friendships and to bring nations in closer co-operation in the universal progress of civilization.

Sweden's World Industries

By NABOTH HEDIN

IV—Telephones

A RECENT newspaper photograph of King Gustav V of Sweden went through the American press under the caption of "The King of Telephones," perhaps because in the background it showed a typical Swedish apparatus, with the transmitter attached to the receiver. At any rate, Sweden has become recognized as a country of high rank as regards the number of telephones in proportion to that of inhabitants.



A TYPICAL SWEDISH TELEPHONE WHICH CAN BE MOVED FROM PLACE TO PLACE AND ATTACHED WITH A PLUG LIKE A LAMP

Spain, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Morocco, Mexico, Argentine, India, Latvia, and South Africa.

Though not a Swedish invention, the telephone has had a number of Swedish improvements, and the patents granted on this score cover practically all parts. These, and the high grade technique and workmanship developed in the Swedish construction plants, account for the wide demand for the Swedish instruments. Each year the country is visited by study commissions from foreign lands, and the automatic centrals recently installed in Stockholm have been the object of special examination.

As father of the Swedish telephone industry may be regarded Lars Magnus Ericsson, born, like John Ericsson, in the province of Värmeland, but not a relative. In 1886 at the age of twenty he became employed by a Stockholm firm making telegraphic apparatus and other fine instruments, and after a three year study tour on the continent on a state scholarship, he opened ten years later his own plant for the construction of mathematical and physical laboratory instruments. In the meantime the telephone had just been invented in

What is less well known, perhaps, is the extent to which Swedish telephones are used throughout the four corners of the earth, thanks to the ramifications of the Swedish telephone industry. At the Tower of Babel there could hardly have been a greater diversity of tongues than those spoken today over Swedish telephones. The countries where they have been installed, or are being put in, include Russia, China, England, France, Finland, Holland,



SWEDISH TELEPHONE CONSTRUCTION IN MEXICO CITY. THE EMPRESA DE TELEFONOS ERICSSON S. A. LAYING UNDERGROUND CONDUITS FOR WIRES

dominates telephone construction in Sweden itself, but also has subsidiary plants or sales branches in several foreign countries.

In England "The British L. M. Ericsson Manufacturing Company Ltd." operates, at Beeston near Nottingham, the largest telephone construction plant in Europe, covering 19 acres. It is now contributing to the automatization of English telephones, according to an American system. In Russia the Swedish company has recently resumed control over its Leningrad construction plant, which employs 2,700 men, and negotiations are in course for the installation of Swedish automatic centrals in several Russian cities, including Moscow and Rostov-on-Don. Moscow already has a Swedish system. In Poland the L. M. Ericsson has just taken over the only telephone construction plant in the country with the guarantee of government orders for the next five years. Several of the principal cities such as Warsaw, Lodz, and Lemberg are now to have Swedish telephones. In Southern Italy and Sicily the Swedish company was last year awarded a monopoly on telephone construction during the next fifty years, and Swedish centrals will next be installed in Naples, Messina, Palermo, and Catania. In northern Italy an automatic plant was last year completed at Verona.

In the internationalized African city of Tangier a similar Swedish

the United States, and in 1877 L. M. Ericsson began to manufacture his first apparatus for the transmission of sound. Here his training as a mechanic of precision and as a practical designer came to fruition, and he not only made improvements in the telephone itself, but also designed ingenious machines for the mass manufacture of telephone parts. "A rare combination of artistic conception and constructive simplicity characterize almost all his creations," a Swedish specialist sums up his work.

In 1896 Mr. Ericsson turned over all his patents and factories to a stock company, the "L. M. Ericsson & Co." of which he served as manager until 1901. This concern has since spread out until now it not only domi-

plant is being installed, and a contract has just been signed for another at Cairo, at the opposite corner of the continent. Johannesburg, in South Africa, has had Swedish telephones for some time. In Asia a Swedish plant has been contracted for at Angora, the new Turkish capital, and another at Han-Chau, capital of Chekiang, China. Singapore and Shanghai already have Swedish telephones. In South America the L. M. Ericsson company has a branch at Buenos Aires and another in Mexico City where the Swedish system is now being extended to neighboring towns. In Spain the L. M. Ericsson company has recently sold its concessions at Valencia to an American syndicate, but retains its Madrid plant. Other Swedish construction works are operated at Colombes, near Paris, and at Reijen bij Breda in Holland. In Sweden itself the same concern is now installing additional automatic centrals at Stockholm and Göteborg. Last year its orders increased from ten to twenty million kroner.

When the Sap Rises

By MÄRTA AF SILLE

Translated from the Swedish by CHARLES WHARTON STORK

*Oh, let the sap rise in the tree-trunks now
When the first whispers of the spring begin,
And let the buds knob out on every bough
To show the fiery urge that strains within!*

*Let the sap rise along each hidden track
For lovely dreams under an April sky,
Although the frost-free life may not turn back
To shelter when November winds draw nigh!*

*And yet, relying on an unknown power,
It wells up fearless in the tree's young bosom,
Nor shall it lose the memory of the hour
When, mad with joy, it burst out into blossom.*

Current Events U. S. A.

¶ President Coolidge signed the new Revenue bill on February 2, making effective the most far-reaching tax reduction since the war. The reductions under the new law approximate \$387,811,000, and the estimated revenue yield is \$2,360,000. Income taxation is now on the basis of 1½ per cent on the first \$4,000 of taxable income, 3 per cent on the second \$4,000, and 5 per cent on the balance. These rates replace, respectively, previous rates of 2, 4, and 6 per cent. The maximum surtax rate on personal incomes is fixed at 20 per cent on all incomes over \$100,000, as opposed to the 40 per cent maximum surtax in the law of 1924. The law repeals the provision opening personal tax reports to the public. ¶ A tentative program of legislation for the balance of the present Congressional session was agreed to by the Republican Senators to bring about an adjournment of Congress not later than June 1. Ratification of the Italian debt settlement, however, is still in doubt, and an informal count indicates that the vote on it will be close. ¶ It is not likely that Congress will ignore the warning of President Coolidge that expansion of the military air service beyond the recommendations of the Morrow Aircraft Board might lead to competitive building by other nations. ¶ Admiral Moffett, Chief of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics, is of the opinion that the Butler bill, which has been favorably reported by the House of Representatives, taken in conjunction with the recommendations of the Morrow Board, will provide an answer to the aviation controversy. ¶ The invasion of Illinois and other States in the Middle West by anti-World Court Senators Borah and Reed has been brought to the attention of the President who is asked to aid in the defense and re-election of Senator McKinley, a supporter of the World Court. ¶ With the

agreement entered into by the coal operators and anthracite miners the six months-long strike came to an end, and 158,000 mine workers returned to their pits. The agreement is a mutual compromise and is for five years. ¶ Inquiry into prohibition enforcement, with special reference to the activities of all organizations engaged in circulating propaganda for and against the Federal dry laws, was decided upon by the House Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic.

¶ President Calles of Mexico in a special interview with the representative of the *New York Times* declared that "the stand taken by the American Government of considering the so-called land and oil laws retroactive and confiscatory is based on the impression of an incomplete legal situation." It is believed, however, that this vexed question will be soon decided satisfactorily to both parties to the controversy. ¶ The Police Department of New York, which has contributed \$7,000 toward the reconstruction of the Louvain Library, has been included with scores of universities, colleges and private schools in an invitation to send representatives to the dedication of the library in June or July of next year. ¶ Celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Princeton Alumni Association by James Madison was participated in by hundreds of alumni who assembled in Princeton on Washington's Birthday. ¶ Sweden was extolled for its contribution to American democracy at a dinner at the Hotel Roosevelt in honor of the newly appointed Swedish minister to the United States, Wollmar Filip Bostrom. ¶ Henry Holt, founder of the publishing house of Henry Holt & Company, and one of the most forceful personalities in American publishing activity, died at the age of 87 years. Another publisher of note who died within the same week was W. C. Bobbs, of Bobbs-Merrill Co.

Denmark

¶ Danish politics are still concerned almost entirely with the economic questions that for the past few years have confronted the nation. Party lines have been drawn very tight, and the debates in the Landsting have been extremely bitter, with Edvard Brandes, the former minister of finance, attacking his own party, that of the Radical Left, for what he declared to be its wrong concept of the money question. ¶ *Social Demokraten*, the organ of the party in power, asserted that responsibility rested equally on the shoulders of the Left and Right parties. The proposed "Crisis Legislation" was considered in the Landsting, and here a different attitude was shown the measure than was the case when legislation for the relief of the prevailing conditions was accepted by the Folkething. ¶ Behind closed doors, the joint committees of both houses considered the German Customs law as this is expected to affect Danish exports. From what could be learned about the meeting, Foreign Minister Moltke stated that even if the new German tariff regulations were put into effect, Germany would still be a good customer of Denmark. M. Bording, Minister of Agriculture, was also of the opinion that most of the new regulations were no more severe as regards Danish exports than they were before the war. ¶ Arbitration treaties with both Sweden and Norway have been signed which are intended to make war between the respective nations impossible. Messages of congratulations that passed between the foreign offices show Denmark, Norway and Sweden to have taken the lead in a movement for world peace. ¶ Governmental supervision of all that has to do with broadcasting and radio activity has been considered in the Danish Folkesthing, but for the present it is believed that the matter can best be looked after by having the telegraph department con-

tinue its control. ¶ Danish and American financiers are said to be contemplating a radio station designed for transatlantic service. At present radio messages from Scandinavia must pass through the Norwegian station at Stavanger or the Swedish station at Göteborg. ¶ Danish farmers are much interested in an offer of co-operation from the United States Department of Agriculture. The Department is ready to act with American agricultural interests in furnishing to their Danish colleagues the various raw products needed, on terms agreeable to the latter. ¶ A Scandinavian film congress is to be held in Copenhagen during May, where the question of meeting American competition will be considered in all its important details. The question of censorship is likewise to come before the congress, which is said to have brought all the Scandinavian film interests into close association. ¶ The announcement from Berlin that the Prussian State Ministry had come to an arrangement regarding Danish minority rights in Slesvig-Holstein has been received with more than ordinary interest in Copenhagen. Under this arrangement, the public schools may be opened whenever twenty-four children apply and the private schools, on the application of ten. Instruction in these schools will be entirely in the Danish language, with German as a special subject. This decision is expected to remove the friction that has existed since the conclusion of the war. ¶ The administrator of London University, Dr. Walter Seton, who has been in Copenhagen to arrange for a Danish chair in the famous institution of learning, in a lecture delivered before a representative body of Danish scholars and students reviewed Denmark's historical-literary progress from the time of the Vikings down to Georg Brandes.

Norway

¶Queen Maud returned to Oslo January 25, after some months' stay in England. Mrs. Emma Stang, wife of the well-known land owner, Ole Stang, has been appointed first lady in waiting to the queen, replacing Mrs. Rustad, who has retired owing to her advanced age. ¶King Haakon gave a dinner February 2 in honor of Captain Wisting, Dr. Sverdrup, and the other members of the *Maud* expedition. Wisting and Sverdrup have been elected honorary members of the Royal Geographical Society, which also honored the *Maud* men with a public banquet, Doctor Fridtjof Nansen being the principal speaker. Captain Wisting and Dr. Sverdrup have been made knights of the order of St. Olav. Some newspapers ask why they were not made knights commanders as were the aviators who took part in Amundsen's flight last year, Lieutenants Riiser Larsen and Dietrichson. ¶The Norwegian Government invited the Storting to grant an annuity of 6000 Kroner to the famous arctic explorer, Captain Otto Sverdrup. ¶Some leading Norwegian scientists and politicians, headed by the ex-premier Gunnar Knudsen, have submitted to the government a proposal to devote the proceeds from the sale of the Government oil ships—about 17 million Kroner—to the establishment of a scientific research fund. The Premier, Johan Ludwig Mowinckel, supported the idea, which, however, meets with strong opposition in the Conservative and Agrarian parties. ¶The Norwegian whaling company "Rosshavet" has decided to increase its share capital from 3.5 million kroner to 7 million. The company has obtained a concession from the British Government for whaling in the Ross Sea with maximum 10 vessels. ¶Foreningsbanken, Oslo, which was placed under public administration two years ago, is now progressing satisfactorily. The bank in the last days of January was able to release 35 per cent of the

old deposits. ¶The new plebiscite on prohibition will probably be held in the autumn, and the two parties are already preparing for the fight which, no doubt, will be very vehement. The anti-prohibitionists have established their headquarters at Oslo and have opened the campaign with a competition for the best leaflet against prohibition. The first prize was won by the well-known journalist, Niels Vogt, former editor of *Morgenbladet*. The prohibitionists have also formed a new organization, The Christian Temperance Council, in which fourteen of the most important missionary societies and Free Churches are co-operating. The most prominent dignitary of the State Church, the Bishop of Oslo, Johan Lunde, is an active supporter of the new "temperance council" and was the principal speaker at the first public meeting, organized by the council. *Aftenposten*, *Morgenbladet* and several other conservative papers strongly criticize the intervention of the churches in a political controversy. ¶Since November, 1923, when the Norwegian Labor Party decided to withdraw from the Moscow Internationale, there have been no less than three labor parties in Norway: The Labor Party (Independent Communist), the Communist Party adhering to the Third Internationale, and the Social-Democratic Party. The Moscow Communists, who suffered a crushing defeat in the last elections, have for some time been busily propagating the idea of reunion of the three parties by the formation of a new, big Labor Party on the English pattern, thus allowing the three groups to retain their organizations while working together. ¶The budget proposals of the finance committee, presented late in February, were interpreted as a vote of lack of confidence and brought about the fall of the Mowinckel Government. Ivar Lykke, former Storting president, was named for the premiership.

Sweden

¶Last year's Riksdag was characterized by an unmistakable moderation, both in the various proposals, by the Riksdag and in the restricted demands from the government, all of which may be laid to the general economic depression. This year no noticeable restraint seems to rule; for at the expiration of the period when all proposals to be debated by the Riksdag must be handed in by the various members, no less than 524 motions had been introduced, a record number. The number last year was 435 and in 1924 it was 507. Of these bills 210 were introduced by the first chamber and 314 by the second. On the whole the first period of the Riksdag has been signalized by great calm, and the remittance debate, which is the government's first meeting with the representatives on budget proposals, went off quietly without much discussion. The leaders of the Right criticized the income computation and the apportioning of tax reductions. Serious comments were directed against the ministry of defense because of the reductions in expenditure for defence. Even the leaders of the Liberals, who last year aided the Socialists in their campaign for the reduction of armaments, took a stand on certain questions in opposition to the government. The greatest question for debate during the present session is expected to be on the government's proposal to introduce unemployment insurance. The Rights have submitted a proposal for a reconsideration of the question of defence with the object of lessening the feared dangerous effects of last year's reductions of defences. ¶The figures for the Swedish trade balance for 1925

gained almost exclusively by greatly increased export, which continued also in the month of December, so that the import balance alone amounted to 2,700,000 kronor, or considerably less than one had dared to hope, and this in spite of the fact that ice conditions did something to hinder shipping. In comparison with 1924 the total commerce has risen more than a hundred million kronor to 2,793,000,000 kronor, and this rise can be ascribed almost entirely to increased export. The import balance was therefore 163,500,000 kronor in 1924, and last year only 79,000,000. In 1924 imports were valued at 1,424,500,000 kronor and exports at 1,261,000,000 kronor. Last year imports were 1,456,000,000 kronor and exports 1,357,000,000. ¶The plans for the visit of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess to America in May have been extended to include a tour around the world. They will leave Sweden on the *Gripsholm* May eighteenth, and remain in New York and Washington until the eleventh of June, when they will take an automobile tour to New England. Later they will visit, among other places, Yellowstone Park and the Grand Canyon, and in the middle of July they will arrive in California, whence they will sail in August for Japan, China and India, and then proceed to Sweden. ¶The Royal Court Orchestra, which since 1783 has been connected with the Royal Stockholm Opera, celebrated its four hundredth anniversary on February fifth with a great musical festival. It was established in 1526 by King Gustavus Vasa. It is two hundred and fifty years older than the Royal Opera.

The American-Scandinavian Foundation

For better intellectual relations between the American and Scandinavian peoples, by means of an exchange of students, publications, and a Bureau of Information—

Officers: President, Henry G. Leach; Vice presidents, John G. Bergquist, John A. Gade and C. S. Peterson; Treasurer, H. Esk. Möller; Secretary, James Creese; Literary Secretary, Hanna Astrup Larsen; Counsel, Henry E. Almberg; Auditors, David Elder & Co.

Government Advisory Committees: Danish—A. P. Weis, Chief of the Department of the Ministry of Education, Chairman; Norwegian—K. J. Hougen, Chief of the Department of Church and Education, Chairman. The Swedish Government is represented in the Swedish American Foundation (below).

Co-operating Bodies: Sweden—Sverige-Amerika Stiftelsen, Regeringsgatan 27-29, Stockholm, Svante Arrhenius, President; Ira Nelson Morris, Honorary President; J. P. Seburg, Honorary Vice-President; Eva Fröberg, Secretary; Denmark—Danmarks Amerikanske Selskab, M. I. T. C. Clan, President; N. Feilberg, Secretary, Vester Boulevard 18, Copenhagen; Norway—Norge-Amerika Fondet, Lille Strandgade 1, Oslo, K. J. Hougen, Chairman; Arne Kildal, Secretary.

Popular Endowment

In the doctrine of the Foundation it is a first principle that as much of our work as possible should be made self-supporting. This is unusual among educational institutions and international societies. The REVIEW has no endowment. The annual dues of our Associates, three dollars a year from each, and the income from advertisements are the REVIEW's source of funds. Each year our book department comes closer to the point where it will be self-supporting. Our Industrial Fellowships do not require endowment. But our University Fellowships must be maintained from endowment or by special contributions by those who understand the great usefulness of the work for students. It can not be stated too emphatically that the Foundation needs greater endowment. Compared with the extent of the work in which the Foundation is engaged, the present endowment, yielding an income of only \$25,000 a year, is inadequate.

For this reason, the Trustees are now issuing to all our annual Associates a call for Life Associates. A Life Associate makes one payment of \$200 which takes care of his membership for life, assures him of receiving all our publications as they are issued, and enters his name on our rolls for all time as one of the permanent endowers of the Foundation. We think that this invitation will appeal to

many of our annual Associates. We are not making a drive for Life Associates. We merely present our invitation confident that as many as can will accept it and change their membership in the Foundation from the annual to the permanent class. If only fifty Life Associates are enrolled, our endowment will be increased by \$10,000.

But in inviting the enrollment of Life Associates we are mindful of the fact that our chief support must continue to come from annual memberships. We look for a steady growth of this number. We think that the REVIEW gives to each Associate full value for his annual dues, and more than full value. That our Associates agree with us is shown by the promptness with which they respond to the annual notice of dues and by their readiness to help us in enrolling new Associates. We turn to them now to ask how many are in a position to show their interest in the Foundation by becoming Life Associates, permanent endowers of the Foundation.

Our Annual Report

In the past we have printed in the REVIEW summaries of the annual reports of the President and Secretary of the Foundation. The report for 1925, however, has been sent to each Associate. Our readers will find there a brief account of the whole work of the Founda-



MINISTER BOSTRÖM AND MADAME BOSTRÖM

tion during one year. It is a year marked by the initiation of our Industrial Fellowships. We point to these Fellowships as evidence that the Foundation is not content to stand still.

Minister Boström Welcomed

On February 10 the Foundation joined with the Swedish Chamber of Commerce of the United States and the American Society of Swedish Engineers in a dinner in honor of Wollmar Filip Boström, who comes to America as the new minister from Sweden. Our other guests of honor were Madame Boström and the retiring minister, Captain Axel F. Wallenberg. The Chancellor of New York University, Dr. Elmer Ellsworth Brown, made the address of welcome to the new minister; Dr. Henry G. Leach, editor of *The Forum*, toastmaster for the dinner, addressed the retiring minister. The other speakers were the two ministers and Congressman Carl R. Chindblom of Illinois. Telegrams were read from Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, former Sec-

retary Charles E. Hughes, Alexander E. Moore, ambassador to Spain while Minister Boström was in Madrid, and a number of societies including the Chapters of the Foundation in Chicago, Minneapolis, Jamestown, and Syracuse. There were three hundred and twenty-five guests at the dinner which was held in the Ball Room of the Hotel Roosevelt.

Chancellor Brown spoke of America's debt to Sweden and named among the things that we have taken over from Sweden "dynamite, cordite, and all manner of explosives, Strindberg included. What an outcome of all that terrific chemical invention was the institution of the great series of prizes bearing the name of Alfred Nobel! That one foundation has made of Stockholm a center of appraisal for the scientific and literary world." He described the function of diplomacy. "I will not deny that war is sometimes necessary, but it becomes necessary only when diplomacy has failed," he said. "Great waves of public emotion carry the nations into war. But diplomacy, the higher and more creative diplo-

macy, the practice and the policy of the world relationship, is slowly raising tides of public emotion which are to carry the nation into everlasting peace."

Mr. Boström spoke of the new spirit among nations. "There is no doubt," he said, "that a new era has dawned upon the world—an era which I would call the period of arbitration. To-day one has reason to hope that disputes between nations will no longer be regulated by force, but by arbitration. Of such a tendency an important proof can be found in the treaties of Locarno. Another proof thereof is the confirmation of the peace between the Scandinavian countries—established for more than a century in the minds of the Scandinavian peoples—through the recently concluded arbitration treaties."

Minister Wallenberg Speaks

At the dinner at the Roosevelt Minister Wallenberg spoke his final American message. "In the moment when I leave the American soil," he said, "which during these five years of interesting work, of wonderful experiences, of pleasant relationships formed, has become so dear to me, let me ask you to come with me in your thoughts to my native land, of which we Swedes are so proud—which has given us life, character, culture, and our dreams—dreams which keep going back to the midsummer twilight, to the lakes and the forests, the rivers and the mountains of Sweden, and to the abode where father and mother are perhaps still waiting for their American sons and daughters. Thank you all for what you have done for Sweden and for all you have helped me to do for Sweden."

Associates of the Foundation will be glad to read this paragraph from Captain Wallenberg's address: "It is a joy to me to be once more in the presence of so many representatives of some of those societies who have worked faithfully and effectively for the purpose of bringing

about better understanding and closer relationship between the United States and Sweden. There are many of these associations, but I hope I do not exaggerate when I say that heading the list comes the American-Scandinavian Foundation. The work which this illustrious body has carried on cannot be praised too highly. Its efforts in spreading knowledge of Scandinavian literature and Scandinavian art, the interchange of students which gives our young college boys an opportunity to study the latest scientific developments and the impressive organizations in finance and different lines of business in this country, are but a few phases of its admirable activity. I do not hesitate to call the American-Scandinavian Foundation a model of its kind."

At International House

A skyscraper home for foreign students stands on Riverside Drive near Columbia University in New York. Forty percent of its residents must be American; the others are students of every nationality. On Friday and Saturday evenings, February 12 and 13, the Scandinavian students in International House gave a theatrical review of their own in the auditorium and had an audience of well over a thousand each night. There must have been fifty Scandinavian students in the cast, all in a holiday humor. There was a Norwegian peasant wedding in bright costumes with dancing and out-of-door music; a pair of pantomimes interpreting Andersen's fairy tales, "The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep," "The Swineherd and the Princess;" a glimpse of Swedish student life at Uppsala in the first hours of a Mayday dawn. There were no stars, no names given in the program, but the play seemed to be full of Fellows of the Foundation.

Mrs. Skonhoff Lectures

The American Association of University Women in February and March

arranged a series of meetings in Middle Western cities to be addressed by our Fellow from Norway, Mrs. Lilli Skonhoff. She spoke on Education in Norway and Norwegian Literature, in Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus, Madison, and Minneapolis. In Norway Mrs. Skonhoff is lecturer in modern languages in Vestheim College and chairman of the committee on international relations of the Norwegian Federation of University Women. As a Fellow she has been studying in Teachers College of Columbia University.

The Poetic Edda in a New Edition

The Foundation has just issued a second edition of *The Poetic Edda* translated by H. A. Bellows. When the Foundation published this book in 1923 it was instantly recognized as superseding all previous efforts to open this old Norse classic to English readers. Its fame spread rapidly. "The wonder is," said the *Press and Journal* of Aberdeen, Scotland, "that we should have waited so long for an adequate English version of these poems, the storehouse of Northern mythology." *The New Statesman*, London, gave this summary of the book's contents: "The *Voluspo* is a wonderful account of creation and of the ultimate destruction of the world; the *Lokasenna* is a comedy through its figures of gods; the *Thrymskvida*, the tale of how Thor, disguised as a bride, recovered his hammer, is certainly, as the translator remarks, one of the finest ballads in history. The *Hovamol* is the Northern Book of Proverbs." In America the demand for the book was such as quickly to exhaust the first edition. It is published by the Foundation as two volumes, bound as one, at \$4.00.

Pictures of Sweden

Twenty-five hundred copies of the book *What You See in Sweden* have been sold. This book of photographs from all parts of Sweden is prefaced by a descriptive essay by Dr. B. H. Brilioth.

Northern Lights

The Norwegian American Historical Association

The Norwegian American Historical Association held its first regular meeting for members February third, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The constitution was adopted in its final form, a permanent working organization effected, and the society was incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota. The Association now has an enrollment well over four hundred, of whom thirteen are life members.

The executive board consists of: D. C. Ristad, president; Lawrence M. Larson, vice-president; O. E. Rölvag, secretary; O. M. Olesen, treasurer, Birger Osland, Knut Gjerset, and A. C. Floan.

A Scandinavian American Art Exhibition

A special exhibition of paintings and sculpture by the Society of Scandinavian American Artists was held in the Brooklyn Museum during the month of February. This was the first showing by this Society, founded in 1924. Artists of Scandinavian birth or descent from California to Massachusetts were represented by their works. The catalogue listed eighty-one artists and included about two hundred paintings in oil, water color, and other mediums, and some sixty pieces of sculpture. It augurs well for the organizations that such nationally known artists as John F. Carlson, Ernest Ipsen, Birger Sandzén, Brynjulf Strandenes, Olaf Brauner, Charles Haag, Trygve Hammer, Agnes Fromén, and George Lober were among the exhibitors. But there were also those who were participating for the first time in a large exhibition. Space does not permit of individual criticism, but it was an exhibit indicative of a wide range of artistic tendencies, and a not unworthy exposition of Scandinavian heritage. We owe this aus-



IRENE CASTLE, BY OLAF BRAUNER

picious beginning of what we hope will develop into an important annual event to the initiative of the Society of Scandinavian American Artists and the generous co-operation of Director William Henry Fox of the Brooklyn Museum.

Prince Wilhelm of Sweden

Early in 1927 Prince Wilhelm of Sweden will make a lecture tour of the United States. He expects to appear in about forty American cities and lecture on his African experiences as a hunter and photographer. The lectures will be illustrated with films and lantern slides, from his own photographs. The tour has been arranged by the American Swedish

News Exchange and is under the management of Mr. J. Alber of Cincinnati, Ohio.

A Fredrika Bremer Biography

Ellen Kleman, who with Klara Johanson edited the large volumes of Fredrika Bremer's letters during the years 1915-1920, has now written a biography of the famous author. It belongs to *Svenska Kvinnor*, a series of biographies of Swedish women, earlier volumes having appeared on Jenny Lind and Hedwig Charlotta Nordenflycht. Lindblad, Uppsala, is the publisher.

Rockefeller's Gift to Danish Science

The plans for the new physiological institute which the Rockefeller Foundation has donated to the University of Copenhagen have now been approved. It is expected that the building complex, under the guidance of the Royal building inspector and architect, K. Varming, will be completed in two years.

A School of International Relations

At Johns Hopkins University there is to be established this fall a Walter Hines Page School of International Relations, a memorial to our war-time Ambassador to England. Mr. Owen D. Young, one of the chief formulators of the Dawes Plan, is chairman of the Trustees for the new school and has thus expressed its purposes: "First, it will develop a science of international relations. Second, it will ascertain the facts, so far as they can be found, on any particular problem. And third, it will produce a continually growing body of men trained in that science and available for service in the fields of education, government, and business. Our contacts with the world at every point should show more conductivity and less useless sparking." The committee of which Mr. Young is chairman is subscribing an endowment for the school.



CHARLES XII AND MAZEPPA, FROM AN OLD RUSSIAN PAINTING

Russian Painting of Charles XII

A canvas portraying Charles XII and his ally the cossack chief Mazeppa has recently been discovered in Russia and brought to this country. Thereby hangs a tale.

Major-General Ivor Tord-Gray, who was director-general of organization of the Russian White Army, and Colonel of the British Army, is a Swede by birth, and was naturally interested in tracing any relics of the campaign of Charles XII. When in the Obi River region, he had visited the quarters of the Swedes taken prisoners at Poltava, and had examined the records they had scribbled on the walls of their prison. It was by pure accident that the general found the painting which he now has in his New York home. During the great retreat of 1919, when an army of 450,000 men and refugee hordes numbering a million, were transported a distance of 4,000

miles eastward to the sea, he once snatched a moment to go into a second hand shop at Omsk. There his eye fell instantly on the picture in which the Swedish uniform and three-cornered hat of Charles XII were easily recognizable. He hastily bought it for 400 roubles, the price asked by the dealer, and had just time to rip the canvas from its frame, when word was brought that the Reds were coming down the street, and he had to join his men. He carried the painting in his saddle-bag all the way to Vladivostok.

There he was taken prisoner by the Reds, in February, 1920, but the general's reputation for kindness to prisoners and for his efforts to shield the population from inhumanities of the White officers had been spread among the enemy ranks. The Reds treated him with kindness, and allowed him to keep the precious painting.

General Gray has had the picture restored in New York. When he ripped off the frame in his hasty flight, the words "The Flight of Charles XII and Mazeppa," written in Russian, were revealed on the edge of the canvas. The date mark appears to be 1756. The figure 7 is indistinct, but as it is unlikely that the picture should have been painted as late as 1856, the former date is probably correct. So far as is known, it is the only painting of Charles XII that was made anywhere near the place and the time of his Russian campaign. The likeness to the Swedish king is, of course, not strong. Nor did he ever flee with Mazeppa. No doubt the picture was painted by a Russian artist, perhaps by order of some nobleman or officer who directed that the Swedish lion should be perpetuated in the act of flight, even though some violence had to be done to the facts.

Books

SCANDINAVIAN IMMIGRANTS IN RECENT FICTION

By ISAAC ANDERSON

DURING the past year three excellent novels have appeared dealing with early days in the Dakotas. In two of them, Johan Bojer's *The Emigrants* and E. O. Rölvaag's *Riket Grundlägges*, the part played by Norwegian immigrants in the settlement of this region is the principal theme of the story. In the third novel, Martha Ostenso's *Wild Geese*, the scene is laid in a community where most of the settlers are of Norwegian, Swedish or Icelandic birth, but none of the principal characters is of Scandinavian origin.

Johan Bojer is already well known

to American readers. Besides *The Emigrants*, the Century Company has published translations of eight other of his novels, including *The Great Hunger* and *The Last of the Vikings*. In order to secure material for *The Emigrants*, Mr. Bojer made a special trip to this country in order that he might get into close touch with the people of whom he intended to write and hear the stories of their experiences at first hand. Nevertheless, he writes as a Norwegian and from the standpoint of Norway. This is apparent even in the title of his story. It is *The Emigrants*—not "The Immigrants."

The story opens in a little country parish in Norway, where we meet a number of individuals who, for one reason or another, are discontented with their lot. To this parish comes Erik Foss who has made a fortune in America and is now home for a visit. His old friends who knew him when he was as poor as they are impressed by his fine clothes and still more by his independent manner, for he takes off his hat to no one, not even to the highest parish officials. He tells marvellous tales of the West, where the best of farming land is given free of cost to those who are willing to cultivate it, and, best of all, he offers to advance money for the journey to some of his old neighbors who are bound to their native land by that closest of all ties, abject poverty. Thus it happens that when he returns to America he takes with him a little group of his friends whom he is to lead to the land of promise. The story of *The Emigrants* is the story of this group rather than of any of its individual members. It gives the effect of an intimate community history. The reader is, for the time being, a member of the community, and the characters in the book are his neighbors. He rejoices with them in their victories and grieves with them in their time of

sorrow. The characters are clearly drawn and sharply differentiated from each other, but there is no one person among them who dominates the story as is the case in most novels. In this respect *The Emigrants* may be compared to *The Last of the Vikings* which told the story of the Lofoten fishermen in much the same manner as this latest novel of Bojer's tells the story of the Norwegian pioneers in North Dakota.

O. E. Rölvaag's *Riket Grundlægges*, which may be roughly translated as *The Founding of the Realm*, is a continuation of his earlier novel, *I De Dage (In Those Days)*, and the two are best considered together. The author, so I am informed, is a professor in St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, a school founded by Norwegian immigrants such as those of whom he writes. Whether Professor Rölvaag is an American by birth or by adoption I do not know, but if the latter it is evident that he has been in this country long enough to become thoroughly familiar with conditions here and to have had the opportunity to seek out and digest a vast store of information concerning the Norwegian immigrants of the 70's. Both his novels are written in Norwegian and published in Norway. So far as I have been able to learn, neither of them has been translated into English.

Like *The Emigrants*, Professor Rölvaag's two novels deal with a small group of people, but Rölvaag has chosen to center his stories on two people, Per Hansa and his wife, Beret, who are the chief characters in both of his novels. In the first book we find them on their way to Dakota Territory, traveling with their three children by ox-cart. Per is admirably suited for the life of a pioneer. He is adventurous enough to find joy in the encountering of new difficulties and resourceful enough to find, usually, some way of overcoming them.

His wife has a strain of melancholy in her make-up. This new region to which they are coming frightens her. The vast expanse of prairie with no human habitation in sight seems to her to be no fit or safe place to live. She firmly believes that God intended it to remain empty of people; to attempt to populate it is to fly in the face of Providence. But Beret tells her husband very little of what is passing in her mind. She knows that he has set his heart on the adventure, and she loves him so well that she would rather suffer than see him unhappy. Yet she lives in the hope that some day he will see for himself that it is utterly impossible for human beings to live on these boundless plains, where, as she expresses it, there is no place where a person can hide.

It is the depressing effect upon Beret of the vast emptiness of the Dakota prairies that forms the chief theme of both of Professor Rölvaag's novels. The ordinary hardships to which those are subject who settle a new country come in for their share of attention also, and the author presents some unforgettable pictures of Dakota blizzards and of the endless swarms of grasshoppers that destroyed the crops year after year. But to Beret such things appeared only as accentuations of the loneliness and as additional proofs that this was no fit place for human beings to live.

Of Professor Rölvaag's two novels, *I De Dage* is by far the better. It is more closely knit than *Riket Grundlægges* and less episodic. Also it is pleasanter reading, for it ends on a note of hope, while *Riket Grundlægges* is stark tragedy. Perhaps if the latter novel were read by itself its gloomy ending might appear to be logical enough, but read in connection with *I De Dage*, it is disappointing. After the earlier book has left us with the impression that the two people whom we have learned to love

are to "live happy ever after," it shocks one to be told in the sequel that one of these persons, actuated by a mistaken sense of duty, has driven the other to his death. Many readers will doubtless wish that Professor Rölvaag had let them keep as their last memory of Per and Beret the picture of them as they appear in the final chapter of *I De Dage*.

Martha Ostenso, the author of *Wild Geese*, is a young woman of Norwegian birth who came to America as a child and has lived during the greater part of her life in the wheat belt of Minnesota, North Dakota, and Canada. She has taught school in districts inhabited largely by Scandinavian immigrants, and she has learned to know them as few writers do. That is why, although she uses them only as subsidiary characters in her novel, she has been able to make them stand out clearly as individuals instead of drawing them all after one pattern. Her handling of the Scandinavian-English dialects is wonderfully true to life and not in the least hackneyed. Those much overworked words "bane" and "skol" are, so far as I remember, entirely absent from her vocabulary. And that is something of a record.

The outstanding character in *Wild Geese* is Caleb Gare, a Dakota farmer whose land hunger has made of him a monster of cruelty and greed. He dominates his family, consisting of his wife and four children, to such an extent that they are no better than slaves. His wife fears him because he holds over her head the secret of an episode in her life before her marriage. She knows that he will not scruple to expose her should she defy him, and to induce him to keep her secret, she helps him to keep the

younger members of the family in subjection. Judith, the younger of the two daughters, is rebellious. She understands her father thoroughly and knows that it is greed alone that is the motive for all his actions. She knows, too, that he has some hold over her mother, though she does not know what it is.

The story opens when Lind Archer, the new school teacher, comes to board at the Gares. She and Judith become fast friends, and it is she who helps Judith in her rebellion. Lind herself is, to a certain extent, under the domination of Caleb Gare, for he is a school trustee, or rather, he is the trustee, for the only other member of the board follows his lead in everything. But Caleb can never make her fear him; she is too independent a spirit for that. The story deals with Judith's struggle for freedom and her love for Sven Sandbo, their neighbor. It deals, too, with Lind Archer's love for Mark Jordan, a stranger to the neighborhood who is more closely involved in the fortunes of the Gare family than he himself ever comes to know. But most of all it is the story of Caleb Gare, who loves only himself and the land. *Wild Geese* is Martha Ostenso's first novel, but she will surely be heard from again.

The Emigrants,

by Johan Bojer. Translated from the Norwegian by A. G. Jayne. 351 pages. New York: The Century Co. \$2.00.

I De Dage,

by O. E. Rölvaag. 237 pages. Oslo: H. Aschehoug & Co.

Riket Grundlagges,

by O. N. Rölvaag. 206 pages. Oslo: H. Aschehoug & Co.

Wild Geese,

by Martha Ostenso. 356 pages. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.00.